8 Chilean Leftists Said to Disappear

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec. 22 (AP)—Eight Chilean leftists have disappeared following a wave of political arrests this month by security forces, legal sources close to the Roman Catholic church reported today.

The missing include a former private secretary to Luis Corvalan, the recently exiled secretary general of the outlawed Chilean Communist Party. Lawyers have filed requests in the national court of appeals for access to all eight.

The habeas corpus petitions for seven of the eight say they disappeared Dec. 15. The legal sources, who asked to remain anonymous, said most of the seven were seen being picked up that day by plainclothes security agents.

The sources said Edras Pinto, 48, the eighth missing person and Corvalan's former secretary, was detained Monday before witnesses at his mother's home in Santiago.

Corvalan left Chile Friday for the Soviet Union after more than three years of detention without formal charges. The government released him in exchange for the freedom of Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky.

President Augusto Pinochet has offered to free another detained Communist, former Sen. Jorge Montes, if Cuba releases Huber Matos, an imprisoned former official of the 1959 Cuban revolution.

[Matos's wife met with State Department and Congressional officials in Washington Wednesday to ask their support in a campaign to persuade Cuba to accept Pinochet's offer of an exchange. Sources in Washington said the State Department "listened sympathetically" to her and noed that although the United States has no diplomaic relations with Cuba, it could indirectly urge Havana to free her husband.

[In Zurich, Bukovsky publicly called on Cuba to release Matos. He asked that the presidents of Costa Rica, Mexico and Venezuela encourage Cuban President Fidel Castro to make the exchange.]

Pinochet said Saturday that Montes was the only Chilean still being held without formal charges, which is allowed under provisions of the state of siege in force since Sept. 11, 1973, when the armed forces overthrew the late President Salvador Allende.

But the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Alexandre Hay, said yesterday in Switzerland that 700 to 800 persons remain political prisoners in Chile. This presumably means persons convicted and sentenced or charged and awaiting trial. The government said in October that it was holding 888 such persons.

The seven Chileans reported in habeas corpus petitions to be missing Dec. 15 are: F[illegible]nando Alfred[illegible] Navarro, 50, a Communist official in Valparaiso; Waldo Ulises Pizarro, 42, a Santiago Communist Party official; Lisandro Tucapel Curz, 54, a former union leader; Reinaldo del Carmen Pereira, 27, who had been detained in 1973, and later released; Lincoyan Benies Cataldo, 48, former president of the National Association of Municipal Workers; Horacio Cepeda, a former director of the government transport company; and Juan Fernando Ortiz, 54, a Communist who was a member of the national university's board of councelors.

[The Soviet weekly Literary Gazette said today that only admirers of Pinochet were trying to present the release of Corvalan as an exchange for Bukovsky. The comment was the first in the Soviet press suggesting any link between the release of the two.]